



BACKGROUND: DR. JILL BIDEN AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

As a lifelong educator and community college instructor for the past 17 years, Dr. Jill Biden knows first-hand that community colleges are uniquely positioned to graduate more Americans with the skills that businesses need to compete in the 21st century. Dr. Biden believes the Summit is an important next step in our efforts to meet the President's goal of having the best-educated, most competitive workforce in the world by the end of this decade.

Dr. Biden has always said that community colleges are "one of America's best-kept secrets." She is working hard to make sure that is no longer the case: Last year, President Obama asked Dr. Biden to help promote community colleges. Since coming to the White House, she has visited successful job training and completion programs as well as student support programs at community college campuses throughout the country.

In addition to her work inside her own classroom, highlights of her education-related efforts since the Inauguration include the following:

Community College Visits:

- Miami Dade Community College in Florida with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan (Miami, FL, March 2009)
- Aurora Community College (Denver, CO, May 2009)
- Hudson Valley Community College with President Obama (Albany, NY, September 2009)
- Coastal Carolina Community College (Jacksonville, NC, October 2009)
- Gateway Community College (Phoenix, AZ, November 2009)
- Delgado Community College (New Orleans, LA, January 2010)
- Red Rocks Community College (Arvada, CO, April 2010)
- Arapahoe Community College (Littleton, CO, April 2010)
- Listening session focusing on community college transfer students with representatives of Maricopa Community College District and Arizona State University (Tempe, AZ, April 2010)
- Anne Arundel Community College (Arnold, MD, September 2010)

Keynote Addresses and Community College Outreach:

- American Student Association of Community Colleges (Washington, D.C., March 2009)
- Kingsborough Community College Commencement (Brooklyn, NY, June 2009)
- UNESCO World Conference on Education (Paris, France, July 2009)
- University of Delaware Winter Commencement (Newark, DE, January 2010)
- Center for American Progress Conference on Community Colleges (Washington, D.C., January 2010)
- Participated in event with Sec Arne Duncan at D.C. public high school to showcase simpler FAFSA forms (Washington, D.C., January 2010)
- Introduced the President at the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 bill signing (Northern Virginia Community College, VA, May 2010)
- Columbia Teachers College Doctoral Commencement (New York City, NY, May 2010)

Dr. Biden earned her Doctorate in Education from the University of Delaware in January of 2007. Her dissertation focused on maximizing student retention in community colleges. She also has a two Master's Degrees – both of which she earned while working and raising a family.

Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Dr. Biden taught English at a community college in Delaware, at a public high school and at a psychiatric hospital for adolescents.

Today, Dr. Biden continues to teach full-time at a community college not far from the White House.

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